Antelope School District
by Maren Scholberg

The HISTORY OF PLUMAS, LASSEN COUNTIES by Furiss & Smith (1882) states that in 1871 there were 25 small schoolhouses built of wood in Sierra County with 14 male and 14 female teachers.

At that time, Sierra county was divided into 26 school districts. Antelope school with 28 pupils, and Long Point school with 13 pupils were two of the 26 schools. These schools were called “summer schools” because they closed right after Christmas and did not open until the weather permitted in the spring.

In the mid 1890s, the new Antelope schoolhouse was moved to a place close to the entrance of the Filippini Road, on the north side of Highway 49. There was a sump with a spring near the school from which the school got their water. The process was to have one of the older boys go into the sump, fill a pail of water and hand it up to another boy who then passed it on to yet another boy. It was then carried to the schoolhouse. Caesar Lombardi was often the boy in the sump and many times he told this story of getting water for the school. If you drive a short distance north on Filippini Road, the remains of the sump can be seen on the left hand side of the road.

Continued on pg. 3

Adella and the late Alvin Lombardi have a report card which belonged to Alvin’s father, Caesar Lombardi. It is from the Antelope School dated Sept. 27, 1898 and signed by Frank Morris, the teacher.
A Tribute to
Ruth Ann Neubert
1921 - 2004

RUTH NEUBERT, a resident of Sierra City, was a member of the Sierra County Historical Society for many years. She was also a volunteer for the Kentucky Mine Museum, often calling members to try and get volunteers for a day, or even a half day, at the Museum. With a calendar in front of her, she faithfully made phone calls on the west side of the County, trying to fill in the days with the name of a volunteer to assist the Curator at the Museum during the busy summer months. She was persistent in a task that was not very easy, and her efforts were greatly appreciated.

Annual Meeting of the Sierra County Historical Society

When September 12, 2004
Where Loyalton Social Hall
located in the Loyalton Municipal Park.
Time 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Lunch and meeting.

Note The Historical Society will furnish Lasagna and Punch. Please bring anything else you wish for lunch.

Museum 1:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.
Tour Tour Loyalton’s fascinating museum.

Historical 2:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Tour Tour by bus of the historical sites and the cemetery of Loyalton. Tour includes pictures of what originally stood on many of the sites.

THE SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Sierra County Historical Society is an organization of people interested in preserving and promoting an appreciation of Sierra County's rich history. The Society operates a museum at the Kentucky Mine in Sierra City, holds an annual meeting, publishes newsletters and conducts historical research. Members are sent notices of Society activities, receive THE SIERRAN, and are admitted free of charge to the museum and stamp mill tour.

SIERRA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Office Address:
Kentucky Mine Museum
P.O. Box 260, Sierra City, CA 96125
(530) 862-1310

If you would like to become involved in these activities or would just like to give your support, please join us!
Long Point School
by Maren Scholberg

In 1909, a new Long Point School District was formed and a small new school building was erected near the Charles Jones ranch on Highway 49. The schoolhouse stood where the Eamon Muldowneys house now stands. Eamon and Betty Muldowney have found a number of homemade marbles around the yard left from those school days. Some seemed to be made of clay; others were made of dough and baked and were called "dough boys".

The school was closed from 1919-1921 because the attendance fell below the minimum required. When it opened in 1921, Irene Loque, from near Oroville, was the new teacher. One of her pupils was Dario D'Andrea, now of Loyalton, who attended first grade. At that time, his family lived on the Charles Jones Ranch so school was very near. Bob Pasquetti also attended this school and finished 8th grade here.

The school closed from 1931-1937 because of the lack of school children in the area. In those days the school building was moved to wherever the school population required one. So using rollers and a tractor, the schoolhouse was moved to the present Don Vanetti ranch on Highway 49. The school opened for the last time in 1937 with Mrs. Irene Torri as teacher. Irene Loque had married a local rancher, Pasquale Torri, and had become a permanent resident of Sierra Valley.

Sattley School
by William Copren

The story of the Sattley school begins with the community of Rocky Point and the construction of the Rocky Point school. The Community of Rocky Point was located at a place called Yarrington's Meadows, today located along Highway 89 where the road turns off to go to Carmen Valley. James and Kimberly Johnson presently own the remnant of private property. H.J. Yarrington built a tavern and a livery stable. A post office was established in Rocky Point in May, 1876, and remained there until September, 1897, when it moved to Sattley.

The Rocky Point school, however, was nowhere near the community of Rocky Point. The school, located just south of the boundary between Sierra and Plumas counties on the west side of Sierra Valley on the road between Beckwourth and Sattley, was constructed in the late 1860's. Rocky Point School District is one of the first. It was established on February 23, 1871, when Sierra County was divided into twenty-six school districts.
Long Valley School  
by Maren Scholberg

Long Valley School was near the town of Purdy in eastern Sierra County, close to the California and Nevada border. Bordertown Casino on Highway 395 gives the reader a more current landmark for the location. A road behind the Casino leads to Balls Canyon.

The schoolhouse was built between the Trosi and Lemmon ranches, near the entrance to Balls Canyon.

The school, a one-room wooden structure typical of those early days, was built in 1885 to accommodate the children from the Caesar Ramelli, Dave Evans, Frank Trosi and the Lemmon families.

There was no school in this building from 1908 to 1937 because of the lack of school children in the area. Evidently the few that did need schooling went into Reno. However, in 1937 the ranch families must have convinced the County Superintendent of Schools that a school was needed for she opened an Emergency School in this same old school building.

Loyalton School - Part One  
by Milt Gottardi

For the history buffs who enjoy a bit of mystery along with their history, the establishment of the first school (schools?) in Loyalton is a real challenge—a challenge because none of the historical sources agree on dates or places. Farris and Smith report that the Rev. Doon built the first school house in Loyalton in 1865. No mention is made of where this building was located. In an article in the Plumas National Bulletin of February 20, 1913, Mr. O.W. Peck wrote, “the first schoolhouse in Loyalton was built in about 1868. It was located near the present Catholic Church of today.” Mr. Peck adds mystery because in 1906, the Roman Catholic Community of Loyalton purchased the old schoolhouse to be used as a church when the new school was built in 1903.

The building Mr. Peck describes must have been the Catholic Church then in use. The Mountain Messenger, in an article in November, 1869, reports “a school is being built in Loyalton.” To add to the mystery, another source reports that in 1873, the Loyalton School District purchased a hotel from a Mr. Belden for use as a school.

Conventional wisdom, if there is such a thing, among the old timers in Loyalton always held that the school was built in 1879 and used as a school until 1903. It was purchased by the Catholic community in 1906 and used until 1955 when a new church was then built. It was then used as a social hall until 1965 when it was given to the City of Loyalton and moved to its present location as part of the museum complex in the Loyalton Historical Park. It is the oldest building in Loyalton.
Loyalton School - Part Two
1903 - 1938 by Milt Gottardi

With the growth of the lumber industry and the completion of the Boca and Loyalton Railroad in 1901, the school enrollment so increased that a new school building was needed. In 1902 a bond measure of $7,500 was passed and by late 1903, the construction of the new school was completed. The building had three stories. The ground level had separate girl's and boy's lavatories, store rooms, and a furnace which furnished heat for the radiators in each room. The city was proud indeed of a school with indoor plumbing and a heating system that didn't require wood. The second floor had three large classrooms for the first and second grades, the third and fourth grades and the fifth and sixth grades. The top floor was for the seventh and eighth grades.

The high school was not long in coming. In 1908 the Sierra Valley Joint Union High School District was formed and the high school was in operation the same year. The newly formed school board, representing the various areas of Sierra Valley, consisted of F. Peck, Henry Neville, William McNair, W.M. Marble, J.H. Peterson, Chas McElroy, A. Nichols, L. Ede, Ed Freeman, and Alex Guidici.

Calpine School
by Bill Long

Before there was a Calpine, there was a school district and a school there. The district was called Clare, founded in 1881. Calpine did not come along until 1919 when the Davies-Johnson Lumber Company established a large milling operation, supported by a wholly-owned company town, named—Calpine. The town was built, "overnight" in one great burst of energy.

Calpine, the company town, was replete with family houses sized and segregated by job levels, bachelor quarters, a dining hall, a huge recreation hall, a company store, and a brand new school house, erected on the original Clare site. The area bustled and boomed.

Western Pacific Railroad Company brought a spur line from Portola, southerly through Carman Valley, terminating at a station on the west side of what is now known as Highway 89, at the intersection of Calpine Road. Directly opposite the station, (on the eastern side of the now Highway 89) the company built a spacious two room shingle sided school house over a full basement, a half-story above ground level. That structure survives, belfry and bell intact, after post-pedagogical careers as a bar, restaurant, rumored bawdy house, and more recently remodeled into three floors of tidy residential apartments.
Sierraville School  
by Arlene Amodei

The Sierraville-Randolph school was probably the first built in the Valley. The first settlement—in what is now Randolph—began when W.C. and B.F. Lemmon and Ezra Culver constructed the first cabin in 1852. By 1862 both communities were thriving with hay and lumber being shipped to the Territory of Nevada in such quantity that the lumber mills could barely keep up with the demand. By 1865 the native hay land was being plowed and planted with grains. This venture was so profitable that the people met and voted to raise six hundred dollars for the purpose of building a new school house between the two towns.

From 1929-1931 the Elementary students with Paul Roscoe as their principal attended school at the old Congregational Church, and the High School students attended school in a building that had been the parsonage of that church. James Sinnott was the principal.

This school has always maintained high academic standards. It is not unusual to have Sierraville students graduating as Valedictorian and Salutatorian of the Loyalton High School, and in one instance at least, of Downieville High School. Many of the students go on to colleges and universities.

Pine Creek & Lewis Mill School  
by Maren Scholberg

PINE CREEK SCHOOL
For a brief time there was a school south of Sierra Brooks near the cattle guard on the road to Lewis Mill called the PINE CREEK SCHOOL. It was active from 1888-1901. There were enough children from ranch families in the area to hire a teacher. Alice Turner taught in 1888, followed by Elizabeth Gloster in 1889, and Mae McCormick in 1900. According to Adele Lombardi, Mae McCormick, who lived in Purdy at the time, rode horseback up Balls Canyon on the Staverville Road to get to school for the week, returning home for the weekend.

LEWIS MILL SCHOOL
Because of the number of men working at the mill who had their families living there with them, a school was conducted at Lewis Mill from 1900-1905. Frances Kerby was the teacher from 1900-1904, followed by Martha A. Gee who taught there one year—1904-1905. This information is from J.J. Sinnott's book Sierra Valley Jewel of the Sierras.
Loyalton School - Part Three
1938 - 1959 by Milt Gottardi

It is a complement to the citizens of Loyalton and the surrounding area of the high school district that, in spite of the economic problems of the Great Depression (the Sierra Valley Bank had closed in 1932 and many citizens had lost their life's savings), they passed the bonds to build a new high and elementary school.

The schools were in one building with two wings. Besides modern classrooms, there was a principal's office, lavatories, storage space and a large auditorium with a stage and kitchen.

The high school wing had a science room equipped with gas and water at each table for experiments, a home economics room, classrooms, a large library and office space. The citizens of the school district were proud indeed of their new school, completed in the fall of 1939. However, there had not been adequate funds to build a new gym nor include a shop for the high school. This did not deter the citizen's desire for new school facilities. By 1940 funds were raised to add the shop and students, under the direction of Mr. Noyes, completed the interior of the shop in 1941. By 1943, the gym was completed.

The most dramatic happening was the fire of January 25, 1957. The fire that destroyed the shop and the girl's and boy's lavatories and partially destroyed the Home Ec. Department. Following the fire there was a concerted effort by the community and the school board to build a new school. Their efforts succeeded and the high school moved into its new building in September, 1959.

Loyalton Elementary school experienced a significant growth in student population following W.W. II. Part of the reason for the growth was the formation of a Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District.

By 1941, a school bus became part of the Loyalton School scene.

ORDER FORM

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PRICE: $25.00 plus tax $1.81, plus shipping by mail $2.00
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Shipping and tax are included if ordered with books. If ordered alone, please make check payable for $11.00.

Thank you for your order.
Message From President Bud Buczkowske

As my year as President draws to a close I would like each member of the Sierra County Historical Society to know some of the accomplishments of your Officers, Board of Directors, and members. Vast improvements are taking place at the Kentucky Mine Museum; the concert series (4), through the efforts of Past-President Bill Long, have been well attended. Milton Gottardi, Arlene Amodei, Maren Schoenberg, Virginia Lutes, William Long, and William Copren working and writing together have had their book "History of the Schools of the Sierra Valley" published by our "Sierran" editor Judy Lawrence, and her business, Pritchard Advertising. This book is now available for purchase (order form provided in this publication). Milton and his committee are also responsible for developing a 2005 calendar, complementing each month with photographs of historical sites and places across Sierra County. This is available for $10.00 and is sure to be a collector's item, as is the "History of the Schools of the Sierra Valley". These publications are our major fund raisers for this year, and I hope you will support the efforts.

Four primary documents have been revised, updated and confirmed by respective departments on the local, state and national level. Don Ryberg, Chairman of the Ts-Akim Maidu Tribal Council, has addressed the Board on concerns of the Maidu.

As a member, if you have an issue, idea, or concern you would like your Officers and Board of Directors to pursue please contact us at: Sierra County Historical Society, P.O. Box 260, Sierra City, CA 96125, or contact me directly by email: jelylady@scen.net.

Our Annual Meeting will be held in Loyalton, CA, on the Sunday after Labor Day weekend, September 12, 2004. This promises to be a day of historical interest, so mark your calendars now and attend this tour through the history of Loyalton, Sierra County.

As you see, your Officers and Board of Directors are hard at work. Keep in mind that the lifeline of our historical society lies in its membership, so keep on the lookout for good prospective members.